

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ of claim 21, further comprising ~~providing a device having~~ an elongated centralized vertical extension, said centralized vertical extension comprising a horizontal axis, and a left and a right lateral extension along said horizontal axis.

2. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 1, ~~further comprising providing a device~~ wherein said left and right lateral extensions comprise an inside edge, an outside edge, an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein said inside edge joins said centralized vertical extension to form a substantially horizontal plane.

3. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 2, ~~further comprising providing a device~~ wherein said upper surface forms an angle of about 0 to 60 degrees below said substantially horizontal plane.

4. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 2, ~~further comprising providing a device~~ wherein the length of said inside edge is less than the length of said outside edge.

5. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 2, ~~further comprising providing a device~~ wherein said inside edge has a greater thickness than said outside edge.

6. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 2, ~~further comprising providing a device~~ wherein said upper surface is barbed.

7. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 2, further comprising ~~providing a device having~~ a recess wherein said upper surface joins said centralized vertical extension.

8. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 21, further comprising ~~providing a device having~~ a flexible bladder.

9. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 8, ~~further comprising providing a device~~ wherein said flexible bladder comprises a material enclosing an internal cavity.

10. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 9, ~~further comprising providing a device~~ wherein said internal cavity is empty.

11. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 9, ~~further comprising providing a device comprising~~ wherein said material comprises a thin flexible biocompatible material.

12. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 9, ~~further comprising providing a device comprising~~ wherein said material further comprises a semi-permeable material.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 16, ~~further comprising providing a device~~ wherein said biocompatible fluid is a hydrogel.

15. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 9, ~~further comprising providing a device comprising~~ wherein said material further comprises an impermeable material.

16. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 9, ~~further comprising providing a device~~ wherein said internal cavity contains a biocompatible fluid.

17. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 1, ~~further comprising providing a~~

device wherein said centralized vertical extension has a trapezoidal, circular or curved shape.

18. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 21, ~~further comprising providing a device wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device is~~ made from a material selected from the group consisting of a biocompatible material, a bioactive material, and a bioresorbable material.

19. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~method~~ according to claim 21, ~~further comprising providing a device having~~ wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device comprises a biocompatible fiber mesh.

20. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device according to claim 21, ~~further comprising providing a device comprising~~ wherein said therapeutic device comprises a material selected from the group consisting of: expandable polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE); a material to facilitate regeneration of disc tissue; and a hygroscopic material.

21. (Currently Amended) A ~~method for the~~ therapeutic or prophylactic intervertebral disc wall treatment device ~~of a spinal disc annulus having an aperture comprising the steps of:~~

~~providing a device~~ comprising a biocompatible material for placement in and across ~~the~~ an aperture in the intervertebral disc wall such that said material forms a bridge providing a platform for a traverse of fibroblasts or other normal cells of repair existing in and around the various layers of the spinal disc annulus, and

the device having means for acute securement of said device to said disc annulus.

22. (Canceled).